

This week's newsletter is dedicated to the Ocklawaha River and the half century effort to remove the ill-conceived Kirkpatrick Dam which blocks the river, flooded over 10,000 acres of forest, covered more than 20 freshwater springs, and wrecked a vast area of the state's prime wildlife and plant habitat, much of it within the Florida Wildlife Corridor. This is the biggest potential "win" currently on the table for conservation in Florida.

Built in support of the ludicrous Cross Florida Barge Canal, the Kirkpatrick Dam is now in danger of failing and the state must decide whether to spend millions to replace a dam that will never fulfill its original purpose, or to permanently breach the dam and undo the environmental damage that resulted from its construction 53 years ago.

The St. Johns River Water Management District, at the request of the Governor's office and Florida Department of Environmental Protection, this week initiated a one-month online process to gather input from citizens about the fate of the Rodman Reservoir/Kirkpatrick Dam. Now is the time supporters must all voice the importance of restoring a free-flowing Ocklawaha River.

Efforts to return this area to a more natural condition are closer than they have been in decades. Your voice could help tip the scales. Florida Native Plant Society is one of 60 organizations that comprise the Free the Ocklawaha Coalition calling for removal of the dam.

Here's how you can help. [Follow this link](#) which details simple, step-by-step instructions for how to comment to the St. Johns River Water Management District and what to say.

LINK: https://www.freetheocklawaha.com/action-alert/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=action-alert-respond-to-sjrwmd-survey-on-the-ocklawaha-river-restoration_43